U.S. Presidential Scholars in Career and Technical Education
Criteria for Candidate Identification and Application

Guidance provided by US Department of Education, Office of Career, Technical and Adult Education
Any bullet below the standard in **BOLD** is additional guidance provided by ADE/CTE.

The designated organization(s) will use the following *general principles* and *specific standards* to develop a pool of U.S. Presidential Scholars in Career and Technical Education (CTE) applicants.

General Guiding Principles:

- Academic Rigor – students will demonstrate high proficiency on their State's academic standards, based in part on their high achievement reflected on their State's academic assessments in the core academic subjects.
- Technical Competence – students will demonstrate mastery of technical skills demanded by industry.
- Employability Skills – students will demonstrate such professional skills as teamwork, decision-making, and problem-solving.
- Ingenuity and Creativity – students will have solved a real-world problem through the application of technical skills they developed in their career area.
- Application Pool – students will represent the multiple sectors that are viewed as the pillars of our nation's economic growth (i.e., the five sectors identified in President's Blueprint: Healthcare, IT, Advanced Manufacturing, STEM, and Transportation), as well as the socioeconomic characteristics of our nation's high school graduates.

Specific Standards:

- Academic rigor as demonstrated by *one or more* of the following.
    - An overall grade point average of 3.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale (unweighted).
    - Grade point average in their selected CTE program of 3.25 with no grade below B-.
    - **Dual Enrollment/College credits earned in an academic course.**
    - **Honor Roll recognition.**
    - **Academic awards or honors.**

- Technical competence as demonstrated by *one or more of* the following:
    - Placing or receiving a medal in State and/or national Career and Technical Student Organization (CTSO) skills competition in his/her career area.
    - Completion of a work-based or community-based learning experience (Note: The term 'work-based learning' means a program of structured work experiences (such as internships, on-the-job training, apprenticeships, school-based enterprises, and Supervised Entrepreneurial Experiences) that is coordinated with classroom-based learning and that is designed to enable students to learn and apply career and technical education skills and knowledge in a work context).
    - Earning an industry-recognized certification/credential. (The term 'certification' means a certificate from industry and awarded by a certification body based on an individual's demonstration, through an examination process, that he or she has

acquired the designated knowledge, skills, and abilities to perform a specific job.)
    - **Passing the Arizona Technical Skills Assessment for his/her CTE program.**
    - **Dual Enrollment/College credits earned in a CTE course.**

- Employability skills as demonstrated by *one or more* of the following**:**
    - Completion of a work-based learning experience that is an integral part of the curriculum of the program of study.
    - Leadership role in a Career and Technical Student Organization (CTSO) at local, state, or national level.
    - Completion of a community service project or other student leadership activity in his/her career area of interest.
        - Scores at the Gold Level in each of the three core areas of the National Career Readiness Certificate (i.e., Applied Mathematics, Locating Information, and Reading for Information), which means that the student has the foundations skills for approximately 90% of jobs of jobs examined.
    - **Obtaining a part-time or summer job related to the CTE program.**

- Ingenuity / Creativity / Problem Solving as demonstrated by *one or more* of the following:
    - Solution to a real-world problem (e.g., developed electric car that goes faster than any before).
    - Development of a new product/goods or service (e.g., development of an app).
    - **Improvement or enhancement of a product or process.**
    - **Student project or idea received recognition (e.g., science fair or ecology award).**
    - **Led a successful initiative or cause that impacted change.**